

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 OES-03 SSO-00 A-01 SCS-03 SCA-01

DHA-02 SY-05 AID-05 OMB-01 OC-05 CCO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

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P 211510Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7457

NASA HQ WASHDC PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL TANANARIVE 1286

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NASA, MA, US

SUBJECT: NASA STATION CLOSURE: STATUS REPORT NO. 2

REF: A. STATE 170083; B. TANANARIVE 1259.

SUMMARY: CHARGE MET WITH SECGEN FOREIGN OFFICE JULY 21; RESULTS INCONCLUSIVE. DENIAL OF ACCESS TO STATION JULY 21 DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN POLICY DECISION. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE MET AT 4:00 P.M. JULY 21 WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF MOFA TO DISCUSS ACCESS TO STATION AND COMMENCEMENT OF CLOSING OPERATIONS. CHARGE MADE POINTS IN AIDE MEMOIRE SET OUT BELOW ORALLY WITH SECGEN AND THEN REVIEWED WRITTEN AIDE MEMOIRE IN DETAIL. SECGEN WAS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ANY DECISION AND APPARENTLY WAS NOT EVEN AWARE OF CHARGE'S CONVERSATION WITH SOLOFOSON REPORTED REFTEL B. SECGEN SAID SOLOFOSON HAD GONE ON LEAVE, BUT SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO GET DECISION FROM ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER (MINISTER OF JUSTICE) BEFORE END OF DAY IF POSSIBLE.

2. IN ADDITION TO POINTS MENTIONED IN AIDE MEMOIRE CHARGE SAID OVERALL TIGHT CONTROL OF STATION BY GENDARMES AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TROOPS MADE FOR UNCOMFORTABLE ATMOSPHERE AND IMPEDED WORK. CHARGE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT CLOSING OPERATIONS WERE PHASED INTO TWO DAYS TO PERMIT MORE NORMAL WORKING ENVIRONMENT TO DEVELOP. SECGEN ASKED ONLY FEW QUESTIONS INCLUDING WHY IT

WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE SO MANY MALAGASY EMPLOYEES AT STATION AND WHAT KIND OF INSTRUCTIONS WERE NEEDED FROM NASA HEAD-QUARTERS. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT NUMBER OF MALAGASY EMPLOYEES REFLECTED JUDGMENT OF NASA DIRECTOR AND WAS TO ADVANTAGE OF MALAGASY EMPLOYEES SINCE IT PROVIDED THEM CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT. FURTHER, CHARGE INDICATED THAT EQUIPMENT PACKING AND SELECTION WAS DECISION THAT HAD TO BE MADE BY NASA HEAD-QUARTERS AND WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STATION AND HEADQUARTERS. CHARGE ALSO INDICATED THAT EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS WERE TOO LIMITED TO HANDLE THIS HEAVY VOLUME OF TRAFFIC.

3. SUBSTANCE OF AIDE MEMOIRE IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, REFERRING TO THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. GEORGES SOLOFOSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CIVILIAN CABINET AT THE PRESIDENCY OF THE SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, AND MR. FREDERICK D. ELFERS, UNITED STATES CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, HAS THE HONOR TO CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MALAGASY REPUBLIC TO THE FOLLOWING:

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OF NASA CONSISTING OF SIX MALAGASY AND THREE U.S. EMPLOYEES WERE DENIED ACCESS TO THE NASA STATION THE MORNING OF JULY 21 BY THE GENDARMES WHO SAID THEY HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS TO PERMIT ENTRY. IT WAS THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF WOULD BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE TO WORK ON THE PAYROLL. OTHER ARRANGEMENTS TO BEGIN CLOSING THE STATION WERE TO BE DISCUSSED THIS WEEK. THE PAYROLL HAS NOW BEEN DELAYED ANOTHER DAY.

THE NASA DIRECTOR WISHES TO UNDERTAKE FOLLOWING STEPS TO BEGIN CLOSING OPERATIONS:

I: TUESDAY, JULY 22, 1975:

1) OPEN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE TO PERMIT PAYROLL AND
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OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE WORK. (SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN BARRED FROM ENTRY INTO STATION MANY MALAGASY EMPLOYEES HAVE NOT SIGNED THEIR PAY RECORDS SO THEY CANNOT BE PAID.) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REQUIRES 6 MALAGASY AND 3 U.S. EMPLOYEES;

2) RESTORE ELECTRICITY TO BUILDINGS TO PERMIT ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS TO CONTINUE AND INVENTORY TO BEGIN, AND REOPEN TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD;

3) ESTABLISH REGULAR WORKING HOURS FOR STATION FROM 08:00-16:00 DAILY;

4) REOPEN 2 OF 5 VOICE/TELETYPE CIRCUITS WITH STIMAD

TO NAASA-U.S.A. TO PERMIT DIRECT COMMUNICATION TO PASS EQUIPMENT
PACKING INSTRUCTIONS AND EQUIPMENT STATUS REPORTS (1 U.S. AND
4 MALAGASY);

- 5) REOPEN CAFETERIA (6 MALAGASY);
- 6) REOPEN MOTOR POOL (3 MALAGASY MECHANICS AND 2
BUS DRIVERS) TO PROVIDE BUS SERVICE TO STATION;
- 7) COMMENCE MAIL DELIVERY TO AND FROM STATION
(1 MALAGASY MESSENGER);
- 8) OPEN FACILITIES BUILDING FOR FULLER POWER PLANT
OPERATION AND OTHER STATION SUPPORT (2 U.S. AND 8 MALAGASY)

II. WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1975:

- 1) REOPEN NURSES' OFFICE (1 MALAGASY);
- 2) OPEN RANGE BUILDING FOR INVENTORY (2 MALAGASY);
- 3) OPEN LOGISTICS BUILDINGS FOR INVENTORY (1 U.S.
AND 10 MALAGASY);
- 4) OPEN TELEMETRY BUILDING FOR INVENTORY (4 U.S.
AND 4 MALAGASY);
- 5) OPEN RADAR BUILDING FOR INVENTORY (2 MALAGASY AND
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2 U.S.);

- 6) OPEN DOCUMENTATION OFFICE FOR INVENTORY (3 MALAGASY
AND 1 U.S.).

FOR THE TIME BEING, THESE STEPS WILL BRING TOTAL NASA
EMPLOYEES AT STATION TO 54 MALAGASY AND 13 U.S. WHEN INSTRUCT-
IONS ARE RECEIVED FROM NASA-U.S.A., ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL
REQUIREMENTS WILL BE DEVELOPED. A TOTAL OF 14 U.S. EMPLOYEES
AND 44 DEPENDENTS DEPARTED MADAGASCAR JULY 19. UNQUOTE

4. SECGEN DID NOT RAISE \$100,000 QUESTION AND EMBASSY IS
QUITE CONTENT TO LEAVE ISSUE DANGLING FOR TIME BEING.
CERTAINLY ONE APPROACH IN HANDLING THIS GOMR REQUEST IS TO
INDICATE THAT GOMR WILL BE RECEIVING EQUIVALENT SUM IN VALUE OF
REAL PROPERTY LEFT AT STATION.
5. ASSUMING AIR SHIPMENTS OF ITEMS 1-13A AND 24-31, SUFFICIENT
PACKING MATERIAL AVAILABLE ON SITE OR LOCALLY. BASED ON
SUPPOSITION NASA REMOVES ALL EQUIPMENT, NASA NEEDS TO FLY
IN ADDITIONAL PACKING MATERIAL. AMOUNT AND TYPE TO BE
DETERMINED WHEN NASA REGAINS ENTRY TO STATION AND MODE OF

SHIPMENT DESIRED KNOWN.

6. NASA STADIR FEELS MCKEEHAN'S ASSISTANCE NOT REQUIRED AT THIS TIME.

7. RELATIVE TO LIST OF PRIORITY ITEMS, NASA STADIR FEELS COST OF SHIPMENT OF ITEMS 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 PROHIBITIVE OVER PRESENT WORTH.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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